

## Chair's Report

With a major international war continuing, a summer of wildfires raging all over Canada and beyond, critical housing shortages and ongoing medical crises, our world can feel overwhelming these days. In the face of all that, some people might question how much things like heritage matter. But heritage is not just about looking backwards and preserving the past. It is about really valuing the built and landscape environment around us, and always seeking to breathe new life into it. We must always continue to work on how we can make things better at a local level.

Our advocacy on the old hospital (65 Ward Street) has been about opportunities (repurposing heritage buildings for long-term care that works for the neighbourhood, the town AND the residents; or repurposing those buildings for much needed affordable housing). Both **Philip Goldsmith** and I presented to Council on this issue (along with many other concerned groups). In June, at a standing room only meeting, Council denied Southbridge's application for a Heritage Demolition Permit. As expected, Southbridge has appealed Council's decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal. We are staying actively involved.

We have been busier than ever on the Grants front, giving heritage grants to assist extensive restoration work on a number of important buildings in our downtown Heritage District. We will also be starting restoration work at the **Little Station** on Lent's Lane in the coming weeks. The **Walking Tours** of Port Hope's streets return on September 9. Our next online fundraising auction runs September 5 to 13. Over at PHHF, this year's **House Tour** is on Saturday September 30.

Finally, a few thank-yous. To **Graham and Candy** for so generously hosting the summer BBQ at **Doneycroft**, and to **Susan Carmichael** and her committee of volunteers for such a successful event. And thank you to **Brigitte Hogarth** and her committee for making this year's **PHHF Garden Tour** the most successful ever (and a true pleasure to participate in as one of the garden owners).

– **Ian MacKay, Chair, ACO Port Hope**

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### Tickets Available at these outlets

|  |                        |  |  |                          |
|--|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>PORT HOPE</b><br>Atelier on John<br>Bibelot | Holton Flowers<br>RONA | <b>COBOURG</b><br>Quinn's Blooms Florist | <b>PETERBOROUGH</b><br>Johnston's Greenhouse | <b>ONLINE</b><br>PHHF.ca |
|--|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|

Please join us for the annual **Port Hope House Tour**, which is being held in person for the first time since 2019. Tour Day is always a great day for Port Hope, as people from near and far come to explore our historic houses, and, this year, enjoy an autumn drive through the countryside surrounding the former village of Canton, just north of the 401. This year's Tour includes several large estate homes, as well as small gem-like houses where the owners have creatively renovated and decorated their space. Each of the houses is historically connected to the history of Canton, as set out in the Tour ticket. You will be fascinated by the interconnectedness of the houses in the area.

As usual, this year's Tour has been strongly supported by 41 of our local merchants, all of whom are listed on our website – **porthopehousetour.com**. Please seek them out and patronize them as you are able. We are very grateful to them.

**House Tour, continued on page 2**



# Executive

## Executive Committee

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**Co Vice Chair**

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Jenny Wadds

**Membership**

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**Newsletter**

**& Bus Tour**

Patsy Beeson

*The ACO was incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of architecture in the province and for the preservation of its places of natural beauty.*

# PLACE AN AD IN ACO MATTERS!

**Why not place an advertisement in the pages of ACO Matters?**

**Our readership is interested in buildings and their preservation, furnishing, gardens, and everything else connected with them.**

**There are now 2 rates for advertising in ACO Matters:**

**Business Card Size**

**Width: 3.5 in., Height: 2 in.**

**\$150 per year (tax included)**

**Square**

**Width: 3.5 in., Height: 3.5 in.**

**\$175 per year (tax included)**

**Contact Patsy Beeson at [pbeeson@eagle.ca](mailto:pbeeson@eagle.ca).**

### House Tour, continued from page 6

The Tour provides a rare glimpse inside the homes of people who consider themselves stewards of these buildings. Your support of the Tour enables ACO Port Hope to provide funds for the preservation and restoration of historically significant Port Hope buildings.

Tickets can be purchased at retail outlets in Port Hope at **Atelier on John, Bibelot, Holton Flowers, and Rona**, in Cobourg at **Quinn's Blooms**, and in Peterborough at **Johnston's Greenhouse**; and online at [porthopehousetour.com](http://porthopehousetour.com).

We look forward to welcoming you on **September 30th!**

**– Linda Meldrum, House Tour Committee Chair**







# Walking Tours for 2023

## Back by Popular Demand!

The Education Committee of the Port Hope ACO is proud to announce the reprise of our walking tour program for 2023. Designed to build on the excitement generated by the house tour, these late-summer strolls take you past some familiar historical landmarks, some of which have been restored with financial assistance from the ACO. Tours will offer notes about their history, along with insights into their architecture. A knowledgeable guide will lead the way. Maybe there's a skeleton or two in the closet to be revealed, too.

Attendance is limited, so be sure to book today.

### Three Tours are Available:

**Downtown East/West:** Showcases Walton Street, "the best preserved main street in Ontario," from top to bottom and back again.

**Downtown North/South:** Takes strollers along Ontario, John and Queen Streets in downtown Port Hope, offering a glimpse of some significant but lesser known landmarks.

**Pine Street:** A new tour along a quintessential small town street, with commentary on churches, mansions and schools in a lovely, leafy setting.

**Dates:** Saturday September 9, 16 and 23; Saturday October 7, 14 and 21

Guides include **Brian Buttery, Lois Brown, Bruce Bowden** and **Tom Cruickshank**, all of whom know their local history well.

Tours start at **11 a.m.** sharp and take about 90 minutes. They go rain or shine. Price is \$20.

Wear the right shoes! For information or to purchase tickets, go to [porthopehousetour.com](http://porthopehousetour.com).







79-81 Walton St. (Walton Hotel)

# ACO RESTORATION GRANTS

**A**fter a hiatus of several years, we are pleased to be back in the game of providing restoration grants to owners of heritage buildings. In the last few months, we have approved restoration grants totaling \$177,400.

Some of the completed projects include the windows restoration at **35 Walton Street — Dreamers Café**. The restored windows demonstrate that old windows can be restored, and, in this case, the windows allow the owner to mount window boxes giving the building a rather continental flair. Another project, the restoration of the brick work of the wonderful eclectic building at **50-52 John Street** known as the old **YMCA or Orange Hall**. A recently completed project at **187 Walton Street** once known as the **Upper Towne Inn** helped to restore and repair the brick work on this Classic Revival style building.

Current projects include the brick restoration of **79-81 Walton Street** known as the **Walton Hotel**. We look forward to the removal of the hoarding now hiding the building. It will be an unveiling of one of Port Hope's landmark buildings.

Three window restoration projects are underway at **25 John Street**, **54A Walton Street** and **94-96 Walton Street** assisting owners to maintain their building in an energy efficient manner.

The ACO Grant Program, funded by ACO activities and the dedication of ACO volunteers helps to ensure that the reputation of Port Hope's main street as "the best-preserved main street in Ontario" is maintained.

– Susan Carmichael and Phil Carter



35 Walton St. (Dreamers Café)



187 Walton St.



50-52 John St.



# WALLS

by  
Patsy  
Beeson

**H**umpty Dumpty fell off one and, king's men and horses notwithstanding, has simply never been the same egg since. Now if the king's women...but we won't go there.

In the inquiry that followed, the Grand Jury ruled that the structural integrity of the brickwork was at fault and the vertical joints can't have been staggered properly, causing its collapse and the dumping of Humpty.

Any bricklayer could have told you that if the wall had been built by placing the bricks according to one of the three primary 'bonds' (the patterns created in laying the bricks) this tragic accident would never have occurred.

The three primary bonds are **STRETCHER or RUNNING bond**, **ENGLISH bond**, and **FLEMISH bond**.

**STRETCHER bond:** This is a very popular type of brickwork, formed entirely of 'stretchers' (the side face of a brick) and only suitable for walls 4" — half a brick — thick. Each brick overlaps the brick in the course below it by half its length.

Examples: It can be seen everywhere in Port Hope, but one is the very handsome wall at the foot of the **Hill & Dale** property on the west side of John Street. Others are the **Town Hall** and the **John Street Baptist Church**.

Sometimes you will see a number of courses of stretcher bond (say 5) interspersed with a single course of headers (end face of the brick), which is repeated down a wall. An example is the old part of the **Library**.

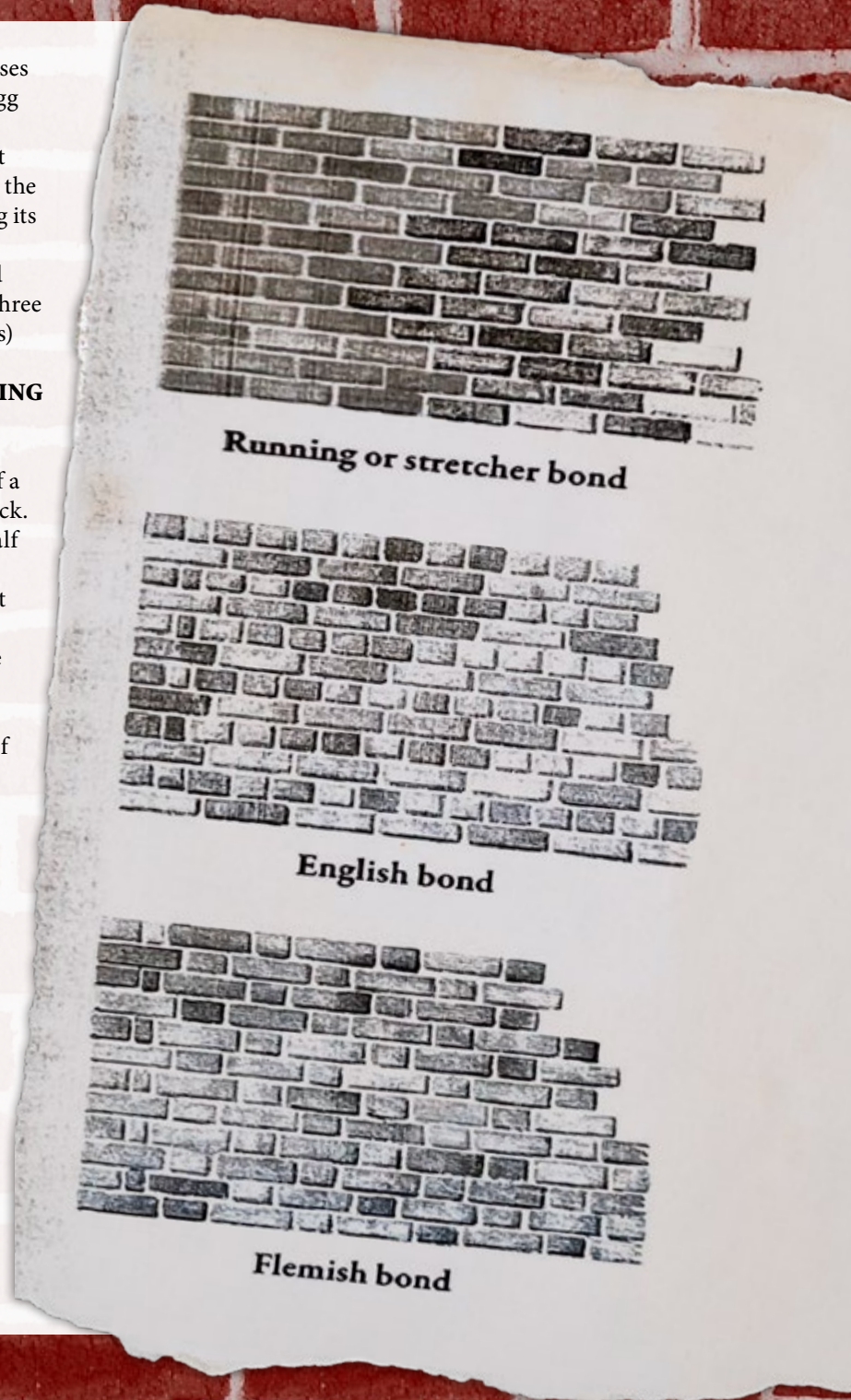
**ENGLISH bond** shows alternate courses of headers and stretchers. The headers rest in the middle of the stretchers in the course below it and every second header rests over a joint.

Examples: **The Waddell Hotel** (1 Walton); **Metcalfe Terrace** (134 Walton).

**FLEMISH bond** is created by laying alternate headers and stretchers in the same course, with each header placed over the middle of the stretcher below.

Examples: **The Carlyle**; **Ross Funeral Home**.

Humpty, long wheelchair bound, suggests that you look closely at the brickwork around your neighbourhood, particularly if it's a free-standing wall and very especially if you're considering sitting on it, as he'd hate to see the same thing happen to you as happened to him.







# Introducing the Education Committee of the ACO – Port Hope Branch

by Katherine McHarg and Jenny Wadds

*“Through education and advocacy, to encourage the conservation and reuse of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historic and cultural significance, to inspire and benefit Ontarians.”*

– Mission Statement of the ACO – Port Hope Branch

We are excited to introduce the newest committee of the Port Hope ACO branch — **The Education Committee**. Our mandate is to educate the community on heritage topics through a variety of methods including lectures, walking tours, social events, newsletter articles, and more! This work aligns perfectly with the mission statement of the ACO to build community appreciation of our rich heritage architecture through education.

The Education Committee builds on the foundation laid by Discovery, a dedicated working group that existed before Covid hit. This group held ten lectures and six outings and were working on future projects when the pandemic disrupted these initiatives. Some of their lectures and events included topics like **Loyalist History, Canadian Canoe Museum, and Heritage Structures of Houses of Local Significance**.

**Ian MacKay**, the current Chair of ACO Port Hope, created this committee as the time was right to further enhance the appreciation and knowledge of our amazing heritage community through education initiatives. It is co-chaired by **Katherine McHarg** and **Jenny Wadds**, and includes members **Tom**

**Cruikshank, Marnie Bickle, Brian Buttery, and Patsy Beeson**. The first meeting was in May of 2023. The team discussed the history and the projects of the Discovery group, and then started to create the education strategy. We developed a multi-pronged plan that kicks off with the return of the walking tours of the heritage district this fall, along with other work including the newsletter, future lectures, bus tours, social events, and the newly-designed ACO Port Hope website itself. Basically any work that involves the communication of knowledge about heritage topics could be included in the scope of the Education Committee. Partnering with other cultural groups in the town to promote awareness of heritage is also an exciting possibility.

The Education Committee’s first priority is the walking tours project. Formerly produced in concert with the house tour, the walking tours were managed by Port Hope Heritage Foundation (PHHF). Now that the House Tour has returned to an in-person event, it was possible for ACO to produce the walking tours, which fit in perfectly with the Education Committee’s work

*Education, continued on page 7*




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### Education, continued from page 6

and goals. These tours are focussed on the Downtown Heritage District, and offer three different tours (Downtown North/South, Downtown East/West, and Pine Street). The tours are held on Saturday mornings in September and October to lead up to and follow up from the House Tour day of September 30th. The trained volunteer tour guides are **Brian Buttery**, **Lois Brown**, **Tom Cruickshank**, and **Bruce Bowden**, who are armed with an exhaustively researched tour programme to share with their guests. The Education Committee was fortunate to be supported in their work by **Lee Caswell** and **Tina Hubecki** of Bosley Realty, who have been promoting the walking tours on CFMX, Classical FM radio. Tour tickets are \$20 and available by clicking on the link below, selecting the date, and then choosing which tour you wish to attend from two options available each Saturday.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/aco-port-hope-68944415113>

Building on this work, we are looking at other walking tour possibilities as the group continues to be inspired by different locations and themes in our town.

We are excited by this work, as well as future projects that allow us to continue to enlighten the public about heritage in a more targeted manner. The Education Committee is excited by future opportunities to collaborate with cultural groups in the town. For example, we are building a partnership with the **Friends of the Library** group and **The Capitol Theatre** to present a two-part lecture series featuring talks by Robin Long and **Phil Goldsmith**. More details about these presentations will be available on our website and social media.

Following closely in the spirit of our mission statement, The Education Committee looks forward to a wide variety of projects to come that highlight the importance of heritage in our community.

## LIGHTING THE WAY

**W**hen it comes to the lamp standards in downtown Port Hope, it's déjà vu all over again.

In 1999, long-time preservation activist and HPH member **Rod Stewart** sounded the alarm when the town entertained ideas for new lamp standards for Walton Street and the rest of the downtown area. The plan was to replace aging streetlights with something new and there seemed to be little discussion about what style the lamps should adopt. But as we all know, the wrong lighting can look horribly out of place in a heritage setting like ours.

Stewart found the perfect solution. He knew of a surviving lamp from the 1870s, not only the genuine article but one with a local pedigree. Indeed, it was forged right here in Port Hope at **John Helm's** foundry, just south of Town Hall at the corner of Queen and Robertson streets. (History buffs know Helm for his beautiful 1866 house, now known as Greenwood Tower, in the east end of town.) It wasn't tall enough to meet modern prerequisites, but easily served as the model on which to base new castings. Local machine shop, **Port Hope Patterns**, did the rest. They have graced our downtown ever since.

Well, those lights are once again at issue. Several show signs of corrosion; they use way too much energy and should be rewired for LED lamps. So again, the idea was floated to replace them, especially now that Walton Street will need a complete makeover—paving, landscaping, street furniture—in the wake of the major infrastructure improvements scheduled for next year.

Still at HPH after all these years, Stewart must have rolled his eyes, but once more, he came up with an appropriate solution. After suggesting that repairing and retrofitting the existing Helm lamps might be just as cost-effective as starting from scratch, the story took an interesting twist with the discovery of 10 never-used light standards in the Town's works yards, left over from 1999. This appears to have turned the tide and although not yet officially approved, HPH is hopeful that the Helm lights—fitted with energy-efficient lamps—will brighten the way on Walton Street for years to come.

—Tom Cruickshank







# Major Upcoming Events

## Walking Tours

Saturdays, September 9, 16, 23, October 7, 14, 21 • 11 am

## Port Hope House Tour

Saturday September 30 (in-person!), 10am – 4pm

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**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Full-time Student Membership: \$20**

**Tax Creditable Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Free Membership for individual donors who have donated at least \$1000 in the year.

**I am interested in volunteering for ACO Events.**

**I give permission for ACO to contact me electronically .**

### Payment Options

**1. E-transfers:** From your bank's Interac service, the address is **etransfer@acoporthope.ca**, please provide your email and mailing address in the message box and indicate that the payment is for membership fee and/or donation.

**2. Cheque:** Please complete this form and mail it with your cheque payable to **ACO Port Hope at P O Box 563, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3Z4**

**3. Credit Card:** to pay by VISA or MasterCard, contact Architectural Conservancy Ontario (**acontario.ca**) online or by telephone at **416-367-8075 ext. 404**. Please indicate that you wish to join the Port Hope branch.



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